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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF VIETNAM

IPF:(1992-96) $92 774 000

(VIE/89/034) - Red River Delta Master Plan

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	12 February 1992
Expected duration:	Two years
Proposed executing agency:	World Bank (IBRD)
Government implementing agency:	State Committee for Sciences (SCS)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$2 900 000 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$2 900 000

Project background

The Red River Delta (RRD) located in the North of Vietnam covers a total area of 15,860 km2, of which about 9,030 km2 are reported to be arable, and has a predominantly rural population of about 16 million (1986). The population density of the RRD is about 780 persons/km2, one of the highest in the world, and four times the national average of about 195 persons/km2 (based on the 1989 census).

There is an obvious need to address the development potential of resources in the RRD. Most of the population is directly or indirectly engaged in agriculture; and this pattern will likely prevail for the foreseeable future. Achieving the full agricultural, aquacultural and animal husbandry potential of the RRD calls for primary attention to an optimal development of its natural resources and to improvements in production processes. Given the need to fully justify interventions and to ensure that they are both sustainable and designed in such a way as to avoid any harmful environmental impact, the planning process must involve a comprehensive assessment, careful screening and selection of the most suitable options based on sound technical, economic and social criteria. This task is, in essence, the "problem" which the proposed project would address. To this end the Government requested UNDP assistance under the present approval.

[1/] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

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Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) prepare a master plan for the sustainable, technically and economically sound socio-economic development of the Red River Delta (RRD) through optimal use of its natural and human resources; (b) conduct feasibility studies for five high-priority developments suitable for international financing; and (c) train Government staff and develop an institution capable of planning and co-ordinating the integrated development of the RRD.

Project activities will include implementation in four parts: (1) assessment of available data on land, water, mineral, and human resources; (2) assessment of alternative development options and formulation of a development strategy; (3) formulation of a master plan comprising short-term and long-term integrated development and investment plans; and (4) preparation of feasibility studies for five high-priority projects suitable for international financing.

The project will also ease pressures on resources, provide employment without adverse environmental impacts and provide for an appropriate participation of women in the development. It will provide training for counterpart staff in integrated planning procedures to enable continuity of planning beyond the two years of project duration; and will generate assistance from bilateral donors such as SIDA, FINNIDA, AIDAB, ODA, OECF, EEC, DREE (France), GTZ (Germany), CIDA and USAID, and international lending agencies such as IBRD and AsDB in financing identified high-priority development projects.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a total of 307 work-months of expert and consultant services: 87 months of international experts/consultants and 220 work-months of national experts/consultants which will be provided under a subcontract with a group of international/national consulting firms. UNDP will also provide funds for fellowships, study tours and in-service training; data processing and transportation equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	235 500
Subcontract	1 669 000
Training	330 000
Equipment	425 000
Miscellaneous	240 500
Total	2 900 000

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